

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00062 110016Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
-----110239Z 000762 /75-61

R 102055Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TORONTO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUEBEC 0062

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: WASN'T IT TERRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR RENE?

REF: MONTREAL 223

1. PREMIER LEVESQUE'S TRAGIC AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT REPORTED IN REFTEL HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE STIR AT ALL LEVELS OF QUEBEC SOCIETY SINCE IT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ON FEBRUARY 6TH. MEDIA REPORTS HAVE TENDED TO BE REASONABLY OBJECTIVE IN REPORTING FACTS WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO PREMIER IN THEIR COMMENTS. MOST OF THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED EVENT AND THE PUBLICS REACTION TO IT DOUBT THAT IT WILL CAUSE ANY SERIOUS LONG TERM POLITICAL DAMAGE TO PREMIER OR TO HIS PARTY AS LONG AS MORE INCRIMINATING DETAILS DO NOT COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION.

2. ONE EXCEPTION TO ABOVE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF QUEBEC BRANCH OF LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA WHO CLAIMED THAT ACCIDENT HAS CREATED "MAJOR SCANDAL" WITH SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES FOR P.Q. ON BASIS ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US, THIS ASSESSMENT BASED ON WISHFUL THINKING. NONETHELESS, PEQUIST LEADERSHIP IS SENSITIVE TO POTENTIAL DANGER OF REACTION.
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MINFIN PARIZEAU CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO ME RECENTLY THAT LEVESQUE IS WIDELY KNOWN AS SOMEONE WHO IS SPARING IN HIS USE OF ALCOHOL. SEVERAL OTHER POLITICALLY ASTUTE P.Q. SUPPORTERS HAVE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR LEVESQUE NOT TO HAVE TAKEN THE BREATH ANALYER TEST.

3. OUR GUESS IS THAT STORY WILL LOSE GENERAL INTEREST QUICKLY

UNLESS NEW, MORE SENSATIONAL FACTS SURFACE. ANY ADVERSE
POLITICAL AFFECTS WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM LATE HOUR AND/OR
FEMALE COMPANY ARE LIKELY BE LIMITED TO ELEMENTS AMONG MIDDLE-
CLASS, MIDDLE AGED MINORITY, WHO MAINLY VOTE LIBERAL
IN ANY CASE. AT PRESENT, SYMPATHY FOR LEVESQUE SEEMS BE
RUNNING HIGH. EVEN SOME LITTLE OLD LADIES OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE
ACT ALMOST AS IF LEVESQUE HAD SOMEHOW BEEN VICTIM IN ACCIDENT.
FACT THAT POOR WRETCH WHO WAS KILLED WAS
KNOWN ALCHOLIC HAS FURTHER TENDED BLUR
MORAL JUDGEMENT BY THOSE PRONE TO MAKE THEM.
MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770048-1084
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770254/aaaabvqw.tel
Line Count: 73
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Reference: 77 MONTREAL 223
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3353973
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: WASN'T IT TERRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR RENE?
TAGS: PINT, CA, (LEVESQUE, RENE)
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